

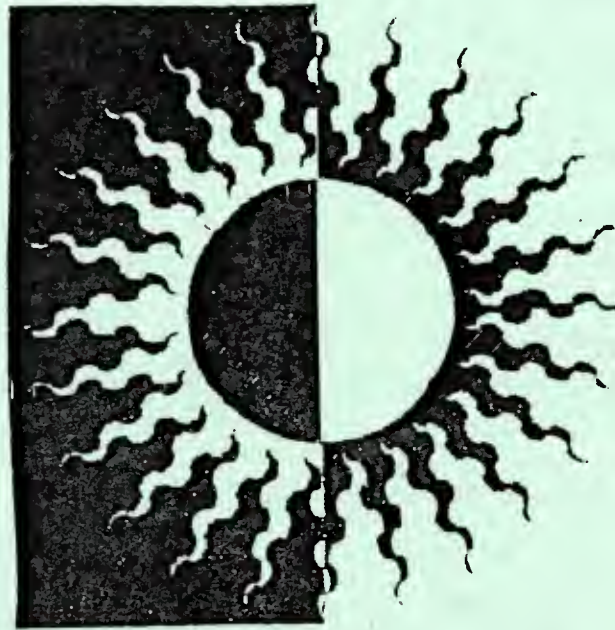


The ROXBURY CHRONICLE

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Dependency Override

Does Policy Discriminate Against Younger Independent Students?

**by A. Sakina Sadberry-Crader
Roxbury Chronicle Staff**

It is often said that knowledge is power. The key to access knowledge is through education. But education is not free--it must be paid for, and for some of us, financial aid is our only hope. Certain criteria must be met in applying for financial aid through the normal process. However, not setting the criteria can turn the process into a nightmare. Answering "no" to all questions in Section one that financial aid form, and not being able to provide parental income information, forces a student to apply for what is called a "Dependency Override" A student who qualifies for this will quickly find out which schools want them to get an education and which do not.

A Dependency Override is a school issued waiver that allows assumed dependent students to apply for financial aid as independents. A student is assumed dependant when he or she is less than 24, not a parent, was never married, was never a ward of the state or emancipated, and never served in the military. If a student that fits this description is independent from both parents and cannot provide the parents income information, it is then up to the individual school to decide whether or not the student can apply for financial aid as an independent student.

Each school is different as far as what kind of documentation is required to explain the students "special circumstance." From my own personal experience, I was shocked to learn that many colleges have little or no sympathy for students like myself. An individual at the Bunker Hill Community College Financial Aid Office, who wished to remain anonymous, said, "To qualify for a Dependency Override, the student must provide documents proving there was a hostile situation where the student was forced out of the home. The student could not have left home of their own free will." I asked her to give me an example of a document that could support such a claim. Her answer was a police report.

Another individual at the Bristol Community College Financial Aid Office, who also remained anonymous, said, "In order for a student to qualify for a Dependency Override at this school, a student must show documents supporting the fact that all ties have been severed between the student and their parents for at least the past twelve months." Again, I asked for an example of a type of document that would support such a claim. She says anything the student could get. I asked a few more times, but she wouldn't say specifically.

Financial Aid prioritization raises the question of fairness. Should they automatically assume that a student under 24, never married, no children, never a ward of

the state or emancipated, never served in the military is not yet responsible enough to be independent in today's society? If, in fact, one or more of the criteria do apply, is it then just to assume all ties are severed between those students and their parents? The favoritism here is alarming.

I can honestly say there is one school that tries to make the application process seem less intimidating and much more promising for students in need of a Dependency Override. Betina Rodriguez of the Financial Aid Office at Roxbury Community College says, "RCC feels that no student should be limited to applying for financial aid simply because of family situations. We try to help students in the best way possible within limits of regulations. We want to make sure that each and every student has the equal opportunity to get an education."

If more schools were like RCC, maybe the Dependency Override issue wouldn't BE such an issue. Until the application process is changed, the school has the power to decide whether a student like myself can get an education, which gives them the power to discriminate. Why should that be the case? Let's do something about it!

In Celebration of Black History Month Creative Writing Group Sponsors Poetry Reading

**by Melek Dunn
Roxbury Chronicle Staff**

In celebration of Black History Month, one of the many activities that went on here at Roxbury Community College was a poetry reading. It was also a dance show, a music celebration and an opportunity for all amateur poets out there to get up and show their skill.

Organized by Toni A. Brooks, a student at RCC and the head of the Creative Writing Club, the poetry reading was a success from the opening lines to the eloquently put finishing commentary in which RCC received a surprising critique. The mistress of ceremonies, Bianca Blackman, an English major at RCC and a member of the Creative Writing Club, started the entire crowd off with the singing of the Black National Anthem with the help of her friend Terry Hilliard, also of the Creative Writing Club.

She then proceeded to introduce the brave laureates who had signed up to participate in the open mike session of the reading. Some were students from the Timilt and Martin Luther King middle schools, others were students of RCC and some even RCC faculty. We were all delighted by the reading of poetry that tackled issues like racial injustice, sexuality, abuse, growing old and even the insidious advertisements attached to perfumes and colognes.

But the headliners were there to do a job! And that they did. The blew us away. If you ever see the names Corey Cokes and Ethiopia attached to some flyer, poster or advertisement involving poetry, take that opportunity to check them out; you will not be disappointed.

Corey opened up the professional portion of the poetry reading. After Blackman gave his intro and list of credits, he added, "I'm a writer; that's all you need to know." That set the tone for his performance. Direct, to the point and right on it was Cokes' style that day. He showed his prowess in reciting his own written poetry for all ears attending RCC and made apologies for any vulgarities, as it was only used for artistic expression, not gratuitously. There aren't that many artists and performers in the mainstream who can boast style, finesse and humility comparable to Mr. Cokes.' After completing Part One of his performance that day, Cokes turned the floor over to Ethiopia.

Ethiopia is an RCC alumni, a mother and proprietor to a style all her own. In a style that lent more to cryptic decoding than directness, Ethiopia made us think--about the meaning of school, the meaning of love, sex and women's sexuality, and even about the meaning in religious organizations, positive or not. Ethiopia spoke directly to her audience artistically and in a mundane sense, introducing each piece and giving a map to understand its intricacies. Like I said before, if you see her name, feel obligated to check her out at whichever venue, spot or club she'll be tearing up, because she will be doing just that.

It was not just a day of poets, though. There were dancers Frederick Hayes, who teachers at the Reggie Lewis Center, and Jacqueline Hayes, who expressed the art of dance through the style of African artistry and expression. Musicians Christopher Lesley and Alicia Hall showed us that good old fashioned gospel music is still alive today while Charles Joyner and Jason Poulis gave us their rendition of Brian McKnight's "Man You Need Me to Be," which all the ladies loved.

But one of the dramatic things to come out of this whole poetry reading was what Corey Cokes said at the end of the second half of his presentation. It was directed to whoever is in charge of finances and the paying of guest speakers at RCC. Cokes said, "As people, especially as people of color, we need to start treating each other with respect." This was in regards to a show he had done at RCC last year, which he was not paid for. He also went on to explain how performing poetry is life's blood. It sustains him financially and spiritually, and to not be paid is insulting to his life. He went on to explain how he was asked to return this year and agreed to under one term--that he be paid before the show was designated to start. RCC agreed and signed a contract but came up short on their part of the deal again. That is why Corey Cokes said, "The administrators, whether it's the president, the comptrollers or the grant manager, I don't care who you are, you better start treating your own like you love them and like you respect them."

And that is how the poetry show closed. It was enlightening on many levels and filled with true human emotion and genius. Thank you to the performers.

Does Anybody Really Know What Time It Is?

by Rosemary Hurley
Roxbury Chronicle Staff

Tick, tock, tick, tock...

Remember the story of Alice in Wonderland, and the rabbit that ran through the forest. He passed animals and people. To keep on going to avoid distraction, he had a big round clock with a long gold chain. As he passed the characters, he was shouting, "I'm late! I'm late! I have a heavy date."

What happened to the clocks in Roxbury Community College? Why are the clocks in the classrooms not working? Some clocks are working, but most of them are not. Mr. Okechukwu Onyekwu is the Manager of Operations, and Mr. Kenneth Hall is the Assistant Director of Facilities, a registered electrician, and Mr. William Larson is an electrician in Facilities. If there is a budget problem regarding the maintenance of classroom clocks, Mr. William Larson should have a report and submit these problems to the executive administration to see these problems do not exist in our college.

There is a big history of clocks. We have come a very long way. But we can not turn the clocks away due to our fast industrial society. We cannot use sundials or the water clocks of Egypt 200 B.C. They don't work on minutes and hours.

We depend on clocks to get us up in the morning to get ready for school and work. Clocks assist us and recognizing time by hours and minutes. Transportation schedules--busses, trains, planes--are set by clocks. Automobiles have clocks in them. Students and professors depend on these clocks for many reasons. We need to know the time to get to class on time. We also need to know when class is over. Our lives are full of meetings, seminars and messages. They all depend on clocks.

Business classes, psychology classes, math classes need clocks. Jean Rosenberg, a student at RCC, said that the clock in his English Composition class needs to be fixed.

The bottom line. Roxbury Community College must fix the clocks. If they cannot afford battery-operated clocks, we must go back to electric clocks. Do not blame the students or the professors. We all need to know the time. So my suggestion to the Department of engineering and electrical department, go and find a catalogue that will bring you up to date on new equipment and keep our clocks working.

I have to run now. Please. I am late. I am late. I have an important date. And the clock in the classroom isn't working...

Attention...Virus Alert

Students Who Aren't In Class May Be Suffering From This Mysterious Ailment

**by Caroline Victor
Roxbury Chronicle Staff**

Alert, alert...

There is a virus running through the hallways of Roxbury Community College. The experts call it "The Skipper Virus." This is a serious problem. There are some dramatic circumstances. You can die. I mean, educationally die...

What is the Skipper Virus? The Skipper Virus is the disease that makes you stop going to class, makes you fail your classes. You become lazy. On a serious note, why do people skip classes? Somebody had to talk about it and came clear on the subject.

I personally believe students have skipped class since the beginning of school. Remember when you were a child, you were pretending to be sick and your mama let you stay home. Well, nothing has really changed except by the fact that we don't need mama's excuses anymore. We make our own.

Skipping class is strongly wrong. You become a ghost to you classmates. "Where have you been? Oh, she's back." That's what you hear from your classmates. "I want to talk to you at the end of your class." That's what you hear from your teacher. Without counting the late homework, the make-ups, the absences, is it really worth it?

Trust me. I know what I am talking about. I am recovering from this disease. Some prescriptions from the professional. Try to wake up early, meaning get to sleep early. Get your clothes and your school bag ready at night. Yes, the same thing as when you were a kid.

Now when you get to school, don't stay in the hallway talking to your friends like I did, but actually go to class. Don't even try to fool somebody by going to study in the library because we all know that this is the "spot". Just go to class.

So my fellow classmates, promise me as I promise you, we will all get to class on time. We don't have to be in school. We choose to be in school, so let's try to keep our commitments.

ABORTION:

A COMPLEX, CONTEMPORARY ISSUE

by Tanisha Washington
Roxbury Chronicle Staff

Abortion is a procedure in which women have a choice of killing their young. When the Supreme Court explained women's right to an abortion in *Roe Vs. Wade* (1973) and the companion case of *Doe V. Bolton* (1973), it brought a firestorm of controversy that has not yet abated in the 1990's. Most feminist groups lauded the decisions for opening up opportunities for women to control their destinies and worked to ensure the permanence of legal abortion.

Access to abortion has also been limited by subsequent court and legislative decisions and by a short supply of American physicians and clinics willing to perform abortions. It is widely believed that these restrictions have had a more severe impact on poor and minority women, since the mid 1980's, the number of abortions performed has leveled off at about 1.5 million abortions per year, according to the Alan Guttmacher institute.

In early American history, abortion was an accepted practice prior to the point of "quickening," when fetal movement was perceptible to the mother. By the mid 1960's, all fifty states had adopted restrictive abortion laws. In most states, abortions were available only when the mother's life was at stake. Affluent women traveled abroad to obtain legal abortions, while women of modest means sought illegal, sometimes unsafe, abortions in the 1960's. Hundreds of women each year are believed to have died from complications resulting from abortions.

Individuals can and must make their own choices about personal morality when it comes to abortion. Everyone does not agree on the movement when life begins or the circumstances under which a pregnancy might be untenable. But the public policy question is not whether abortion--or single motherhood or pregnancy out of wedlock for that matter--is immoral. The question is whether it should be illegal. Pregnant women have been prosecuted for vehicular homicide if their fetus was lost in a reckless driving accident, for narcotic distribution if their child was born addicted to crack, for criminal child neglect if they drank alcohol to excess. These behaviors are deplorable.

But leaders speak to an old familiar view of authority. In our culture, this is a view that says power is granted in return for protecting the weak and vulnerable. A decline in responsibility in manhood has been the result of problems with children who grow up without fathers for crimes of assault and rape. Abortion, nevertheless, is an issue that touches the lives of many African American women. Black women are estimated to have 25 percent of all abortions in the United States while constituting about six percent of the population. A few African Americans view abortion as genocidal to minority populations and condemn what they feel are societal pressures on poor minority women to have abortions.

My Life in Vietnam

by Khoi Nguyen
Roxbury Chronicle Staff

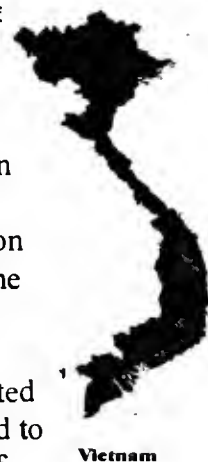
I came from Vietnam, a country suffering from thirty years in war. I was a reporter for a radio broadcasting station in the West region of South Vietnam. My work was to attend every ceremony or important events to make a coverage of it and broadcast to my audience. Sometimes I interviewed some important people to know their opinions about some presidential candidates of my country; whom they chose for national president.

Then I was transferred to Saigon radio station as a news writer. My source of news came from the news local reporters gave to me. Foreign news came from UPI, AFP and AP. I got the information from teletype printer messages. I was also war news writer. I got news from reportage of US reporters who followed the military operations. Their reportage were accurate. Vietnamese news of war were not accurate because of political reasons. We could not say we lost a battle which demoralized our troops those were some activities of my job as reporter or news writer.

A Vietnamese battalion won a battle near the Capital district of Ba Xuygen. Many communists were killed and captured. So the commander of the Rauger battalion were promoted to major rank. He was captain. The ceremony to promote him and to award the whole battalion took place in town square before the provincial administration building. The province chief himself decorated the captain for bravery and gave him the insignia of major rank.

That day I attended the ceremony as a reporter. I interviewed the newly promoted major about the battle. First his unit was surrounded by the enemies; how he managed to break the siege and to win the battle I recorded his answers and the answers of some of his soldiers on my recorder. My coverage of the ceremony was broadcast with my comment. I called them heroes who sacrificed their life for the safety of our country. The evening I went to a square far from the business quarter where there was a cart with noodle soup sold at a cheap price. I saw the owner of the cart. I sat on a bench and ordered a bowl of noodle soup. He said, "No more soup." Seven soldiers came here and ate all the soup I had. Then they wanted to buy cigarettes I did not have. I said, "Okay. I will buy for you." After eating all my noodle soup, they took all my cigarettes and went away. I asked them to pay me. They showed me a grenade and asked me if I wanted it.

The noodle seller lost all his money and did not know whether he could sell noodle soup again. This was the dark side of the Vietnam War.



THE VIETNAM WAR, PART I

RCC Student Shares His Memories of History

by Khoi Nguyen
Roxbury Chronicle Staff

My country was a colony of France. In 1940, Japanese army invaded Vietnam. The French military force could not drive back the Japanese attack and was forced to let Japanese forces to establish military bases, including military airfields in Vietnam. In 1943, Japanese forces attacked and occupied all French military bases. Japan organized a new Vietnamese government under the control of the Japanese. When Vietnam was under French control, Chinese armies of Chuang Kai Chek, president of China, were supplied with weapons through Vietnam by railway from Haiphong to Konning, a town South of China.

In 1943, Japanese forces attacked and occupied all French military bases. Japan organized a new Vietnamese government under the control of the Japanese.

When Vietnam fell to Japanese forces, the supply road was cut. Not only Chinese army did not have supply of weapons from Allies, but they also did not get military intelligence about military plans of Japanese forces. So, Nguyen Ai Quoc, a Vietnamese Communist, was released from a Chinese prison. He changed his name to Ho Chi Minh and organized a party to fight Japanese forces.

Vietnamese forces used guerilla tactic to fight the Japanese. The atomic bombing of Japan forced the Japanese to make an unconditional surrender.

He infiltrated into Vietnam and appealed to all Vietnamese to join his party. With his new recruits, he formed the first armed propaganda platoon in the jungle of North Vietnam. This platoon saved a captain of OS from the capture of Japanese force. Captain Smith, whose plane was shot down by Japanese, parachuted in the jungles of North Vietnam. Through the help of Captain Smith, a lot of weapons were parachuted to North Vietnam jungle for Vietnamese force. Vietnamese forces used guerilla tactic to fight the Japanese. The atomic bombing of Japan forced the Japanese to make an unconditional surrender.

In Vietnam, the pro Japanese government resigned to let Ho Chi Minh form a new government to deal with the new situation before the return of French expeditionary corps. The Ho Chi Minh's government was made up of nearly all Communists. The Communists took control of the country and built a military force to brace for an imminent attack by French forces.

The Chinese army came to Vietnam to disarm the Japanese. There were some conflicts between Vietnamese and Chinese forces. The French forces attempted to land on Haiphong Sea Port from their landing crafts and were pulled back by Chinese forces. There was a duel of artillery between Chinese battery on the shore and French big guns on the battle ships for many hours. Finally, after negotiation from the general headquarters of the Chinese forces and the Commander of French navy force, French troops were admitted to station in a number of locations in North Vietnam.

The French wanted to colonize Vietnam and expanded its occupation area. First Vietnamese force could not drive back French troops backed by tanks and fighter planes. Vietnamese armed forces were compelled to withdraw from most cities and towns to the jungles and remote areas. Vietnamese used guerrilla tactics to fight French troops. The longer the war lasted, the more the Vietnamese fought effectively.

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In 1951, Vietnamese forces defeated all the French troops station in the mountainous region of Langson near the South area of China. There they destroyed many French military posts and advanced to Vinh Yen, a province near Hanoi. An important military base of French troops was surrounded by Vietnamese force and all relief forces were driven back. Marshall Delattre de Tassigny ordered the bombing of this base with napalm to kill all the besieges including his own troops stationed in the base. He won a great victory but he was criticized severely by French people for the killing of his own soldiers.

Later, a French base at Dien Bieu Phu with ten thousands of soldiers including six battalions of paratroops was besieged. All French troops sent to relieve Dien Bien Phu were attacked and driven back without reaching it.

At last French had to negotiate with Vietnamese government and withdrew its troops from North Vietnam in 1954.

It was the end of the First Vietnam War.

Why I Want to Be a Writer

by Andre S. Cook
for the Roxbury Chronicle

Although I am an English major, my interest has not always been rooted within the English language. At one time, I was very much interested in Math and found English demanding and boring. The constant explaining and vivid detail that was necessary to manifest a picture for the audience to see was, for lack of a better word, annoying. Math, however, had instant gratification. I solved the question and got the answer. From grade to middle school, Math was the focus. The strategy I learned from video games to solve problems and vice versa. Math was fun and English wasn't.

At one time, I was very much interested in Math and found English demanding and boring. The constant explaining and vivid detail that was necessary to manifest a picture for the audience to see was, for lack of a better word, annoying.

However, by the time I entered high school, English was the forerunner. Something had happened between 8th grade and 9th grade that caused a drastic change in my thinking and growth. No longer were equations fun. They seemed to have a short life and once you solved the equation, you were forced to move on. Math was training, where English was thinking and hard concentration. You can't use just any word to place within an essay. Either you use the correct one or change the sentence. With English, I was able to think more and express myself more. With words, I could share my visions and wonders with others and the dreams that danced within my head and lit my spirit.

Also life within my home had changed drastically; no longer was I able to be 10, 11, or 12 years old. Situations around me forced me to become older, and so instant gratification was abandoned and replaced with long and deep concentration.

Also life within my home had changed drastically; no longer was I able to be 10, 11, or 12 years old. Situations around me forced me to become older, and so instant gratification was abandoned and replaced with long and deep concentration. Math skills seemed to go down through my 8th grade while my English skills eclipsed every other subject. I was constantly told how smart I was. My conversation and vocabulary were significantly recognized. Thus I began eating and devouring words at an enormous rate. My skills in English flourished greatly.

My writing talents really didn't emerge until the 8th grade. I had sank into a deep depression and found freedom through writing. My words and stories now could be told far better than any story telling I could give. Through writing my ideas could be displayed before you, and my audience could respond by telling me if you see what I saw and if you like what you see. Originally most of my works were depressing and sent shivers down my reader's spines, none intentionally of course. However, as the depression began to fade, I noticed that writing permitted a freedom from outside this world and into another. I began to create every day. There was always something new and exciting and extraordinary that could be written down.

My English teachers began to respond to the color and magic I used in my essays. I could paint portraits or scenes and give objects emotions. I could flood the world and make the water recede into the sky. It was wonderful and special and a dream.

I want to be a writer because it is the first true passion I've ever really had. Within me are the greatest adventures yet to be written. I want to travel plains of reality no one else has tried and discover new life just outside our front doors. Endless possibilities lie before me with each new sentence or phrase.

Some might say writing is hard, especially when the thoughts are not there to form into words and sentences. It could be considered impossible. I have always liked writing to a debate, and if you can state your point, then you can write what is on your mind.

The problem I've had with most writing session have been journals. I always found them fruitless and not true to the soul. Writing should spring forth like water from a fountain gushing outward to meet the sky and share with the world its passion for life. When writing a journal, the work is forced and the desire is to put something down not let something out.

Although someone could argue that journaling is not the water, but the opening from the earth that permits the spring to have been created in the first place. Moreover, journals begin the process and the passion ends the train of thought. To that, there is only to say sounds good, and I could believe it.

Some might say writing is hard, especially when the thoughts are not there to form into words and sentences. It could be considered impossible. I have always liked writing to a debate, and if you can state your point, then you can write what is on your mind.

I write because I like creating worlds. I write because I like sharing my ideas and having other respond to them. I write for me.

RCC PROFESSOR FLORENCE CONDRY PROFILED

“I like working with students who have challenges.”

**By Sofiya Dobromyslova
Roxbury Chronicle Staff**

Everybody knows that the immigrants are very grateful even to a small kindness in a new country. Therefore you can imagine how touched were Russian immigrants and other RCC students by Professor Florence Condry's concern about their lives. She cared for students like their mothers did, helping them to adapt to their new social state and position.

When we attended classes at BBS, the RCC administration paid little attention to us, and we felt as well as if we were “Cinderellas.” Fortunately, “The Fairy Godmother” appeared unexpectedly. Her name was Condry. Florence, that sounded like “Flowers” to us. Certainly, she was a “Flower of our dreams.”

Believe me or not, Florence changed our lives. First of all, she founded the student club at BBS. American students enthusiastically helped students from other countries to comprehend the American culture.

Moreover, Florence taught us to cope with some inevitable realities of American life. She advised women to be strong, resolute and feminine persons at the same time. On the other hand, she advised men to be energetic, kind and courageous creatures simultaneously.

Then Condry provided students with the most inexpensive theater tickets. In addition, sometimes she distributed free tickets to the symphony concerts among students.

Next, Condry organized “A Food Festival” and international students' party, where appreciative Russian students sang Russian songs because of excitement.

Furthermore, Professor Condry in her class Introduction to Speech suggested that students should show their craft or cookery skills during the speech delivery. As a consequence, her classes were transformed into a small lovely parties or performances, where everyone enjoyed her or his role.

Florence Condry teaches the “Applied Grammar II” class for the ESL Department,

as well as English classes for the English Department. She was born in Boston, and has spent her whole life in Boston because she likes Boston. She is the Boston's patriot.

Condry received degrees and studied in different places. They are Boston State College, State College of Boston, University of Massachusetts, Emmanuel College and Framingham State College. She earned her M.A. T. In English and History. She also has a M.Ed in Counseling Psychology. In addition, Pr. Condry has many Certificates: English, History, Guidance Directorship, Supervision.

Moreover, Florence continues her education. She says, "I am working on my Ph.D. Usually I do one course in the fall and one course during the summer." The Professor is smiling and adding, "When I finish my doctoral work on Education with an English emphasis, I would like to study Law."

The professor also says, "I like working with students. What is important for me, is to work with students who have challenges, who do not find education easy because of financial, language, age or other problems.

Condry likes traveling, reading books, especially mystery stories. She also likes theater work, in particular, dramas. Florence likes working with "The Young at Arts" program at the Wang Theater Center.

The ancestors of Professor Condry's mother's family arrived in America in the late 1600's and her father's family in the late 1700's. They were farmers, soldiers and sea captains. Therefore, we may say that thanks to Florence's forbearers' hard work, we live now in the modern, comfortable U.S.A.

Florence has three sisters. One of them is a teacher and two others are computer programmers. They all like attending as private as well as public classes, lectures, seminars to continue their education, because as people say, it is never too late to learn.

Ms. Happyberry

RCC Student reflects on the life of her grandmother and the generational changes in women's lives

By A. Sakina Sadberry-Crader
Roxbury Chronicle Staff

In this day and age where we possess the basic freedom to speak our minds and make our own decisions, there lives a woman that was raised during a time when religion and family values were very well respected and lived by. But Ms. Edith Sadberry did one thing that was unheard of in her time. As much as she believed in tradition, the sacrifice she made on herself shows how much of a risk she was willing to take to achieve her own happiness, no matter what tradition says. She was well ahead of her time, and it goes to show that even back then, women really did have a choice.

Edith Merriweather was born on May 28, 1924 to a family with a very strong Catholic background. As a little girl, she was restricted to certain kinds of play. Her parents felt a female child should play inside the house and play with dolls. She was not allowed to ride bikes, or use roller-skates for example--things like that were considered rough play, and only appropriate for boys. But she didn't mind, because it wasn't like her girlfriends had rules that were any different. Overall, her childhood was relatively smooth.

When Edith was about fifteen, she met a boy by the name of Elias Sadberry who chose to approach Edith the safest way possible--through her parents. Elias shared a lot of the same beliefs as Edith's parents, and they soon took a strong liking to him. After long, they gave Edith and Elias permission to date under light supervision. Needless to say, they fell in love, and shortly after Edith's eighteenth birthday, they became Mr. and Mrs. Elias Sadberry.

After they married, Edith was pretty much living the life her mother was leading as a housewife. She was not allowed to work or drive the car. And by religious rule, she was also not allowed to use birth control. Edith only wanted four children, but unfortunately, four quickly turned into seventeen. But still, Edith didn't mind. After all, she felt if this is what God intended, so be it. To her, it was blessing.

Edith can honestly say there is definitely one thing she's done that she considers very "today" and very much against her and her family's beliefs. As much as she values her upbringing and respects the ways of the Catholic religion, Edith says, "Above all, how you feel inside is the most important feeling. True happiness is not achieved when you live your life to make others happy. After 23 years of marriage, divorcing my husband

was the hardest thing I ever had to do. But the way I see it, that was the only way I could ever find true happiness again..."

Edith's parents had already passed at this time, but she knew if they were still around, she could've counted on them for their love and support in her decision. During Edith and Elias' marriage, Elias developed a drinking problem and interests in other women. This was destroying Edith and the children, and something had to give. She told him to leave, and eventually, he did. But all the while, he still claimed his love for her, and still took care of her and the children financially. By now, some of the children had already grown, and some were working, so the bills weren't so difficult for him to handle. "That's one thing about him. He's always kept a good job and made sure the children and I were taken care of."

As time passed by and the children had grown and gone, Elias's feelings toward her remained the same. "Would you believe till this day he still wants to get back together? But I say no. I already have moved on--it's been decades now. I always ask him why he doesn't try to stay with the mother of his other children." The family was in for a shock to learn that 64 year old Elias was being sued for child support of two sons, ages 6 and 2, in 1988. They surfaced when a forty-something year old white woman that was sworn to secrecy never to reveal who the father of her children was suddenly suffered a stroke and was forced to reveal paternity to the state. "I always say to Elias, "Your two youngest children are younger than our children's children." Laughing at her own mind-boggling statement, she laughs and says. "Did you get that?"

So you see, Edith is a very happy woman. She's content with what she has done in her lifetime. Her dream was to have a happy family and live righteously. Somewhere down the line, it took a divorce to keep it that way. "Sometimes that's just the way it has to be." Edith says carelessly. I asked Edith if she has any desires to do anything she hasn't gotten a chance to do before her time on this earth expires. Edith answers, "Sure. I've never been in car, rode a bike, used roller skates or played in the mud, and there will probably be a lot of other things big and small that I will never be able to do, especially at my age. But I've already done what I really ever wanted to do in my lifetime, which is more than enough to say I have lived my life to the fullest. I am truly happy."

That is why I prefer to call my grandmother Ms. Happyberry.

Celebrity--Separate but Equal

The Unfair Double Standard Held to the Rich and Famous

By A. Sakina Sadberry-Crader
Roxbury Chronicle Staff

The very ending to the famous Pledge of Allegiance is probably the most controversial phrase ever written in the history of the United States-- "And Justice for all."

There's no doubt about the different opinions society has on the statement. Some feel it contradicts the code of ethics whether it concerns race, gender or class category. But there is favoritism existing in this country involving all races, all classes, both sexes and an unbelievable amount of participation of the oppressed side, believe it or not. That would be most of us--the mainstream. And time and time again when somebody we all know and love on TV gets into trouble with the law, the general public seems to automatically come to their defense almost every time. Yet we don't display the same type of support for each other. I must ask why that is?

Adultery. Rape. Drug charges. The crime could be serious enough to put any one of us away for countless mandatory years. So why do we continue to cheer on these famous familiar faces to beat their cases with the automatic assumption that they are innocent because they put on a good show. Even if the evidence favors a conviction, how many times have we said, "Well, he's only human." or "Why are they messing with him? They should just leave him alone." "A person's level of popularity does not constitute "Above the law" treatment.

The infidelity of President Clinton is a prime example of how being a public figure can alter society's judgement in his favor. Millions of people, especially women, who would under normal circumstances outcast the average guy for the same actions, forgive President Clinton for his lying and infidelity. The fact that he is the President does not excuse his actions. Society seems to agree on the fact that the judicial System is very biased in many different ways. By oppressing ourselves giving celebrities and public figures the "holier than thou" treatment says a lot about how we value our own level of importance when it comes to equal rights.

Justice for all. Shouldn't that be the case?

Abolish the Death Penalty

Capital Punishment is Racist and Classist

by Nick Wood
Roxbury Chronicle Staff

There is murder. There is racist murder. And then there is racist murder blessed by the capitalist state and carried out over and over. That's the death penalty in the United States today.

There are over 3,000 people waiting on death row as new laws speed up the legal machinery, rushing them to the electric chair, the gas chamber, the lethal shot.

There are many good reasons to oppose this slaughter. For one, its targets are nearly always from the poorest and most oppressed strata of U.S. Society. The inequality of punishments striking. In addition, there is always the possibility of error, especially in cases where the defendant can't afford to hire a lawyer. After the execution, the mistake is final.

But the most telling argument is the obvious racism in the injustice system here. This racist bias is what once caused the U.S. Supreme Court to bar capital punishment before 1976. Now we see the results. Since 1976, of the 415 people executed, 152 were black as of October 9, 1997. That's over 36 percent: African Americans make up only 13 percent of the population.

In class society, law is written to defend the interests of the ruling class. In the United States, that means laws protect the property and the political privileges of the billionaires. No boss gets executed for laying off thousands of workers, even if the layoffs drive some to an early death. No politician gets executed for ordering a war to protect Big Oil in the Middle East, no matter how many people get killed. They don't even get punished.

But the laws that protect the property of the rich are harsh.

Allowing the death penalty puts a weapon in the hands of the state authorities who can use it to reinforce this class rule. They try to use it against outspoken political prisoner like Mumia Abu Samal. They wield it regularly against the most oppressed. The only just position to take it to demand that the death penalty be abolished immediately.

Stop the executions now!!!

Why Should Man Be a Vegetarian?

By Sheng Huey Yu
Roxbury Chronicle Staff

REASON BASED ON HUMAN INSTINCT

All living things in the universe, whether an animal or plant, taking in nutrition to maintain life is instinctive. For the time being, let us set aside plants and talk about animals only, which may generally be divided into two classes: the carnivores and the herbivores. Those that are flesh eating, whether birds like eagles and hawks, or animals like tigers, leopard, lions, cats, etc, all have sharp claws for striking, killing, and skinning their prey. Otherwise, they can only eat insects or plants, birds like swallows, pigeons, sparrows etc, or animals like elephants, rhinoceros, hippopotamuses, giraffes, buffaloes, oxen, horses, mules camels sheep, deer, etc. Man's hands are much nimbler than the hooves of horses, deer, etc. But absolutely not suitable for the use of striking, killing and skinning his prey. Man and apes and monkey are alike. Their hands are suitable for peeling fruits. Therefore the species of monkeys are all absolute vegetarians. It can be inferred from the above that man is born positively not a carnivore.

REASON BASED ON DIGESTIVE SYSTEM

The first strategic point of the digestive system of an animal is its teeth. Regarding the teeth of animals, generally the front teeth of carnivores are mostly sharp, and there are many jutting out points on the chewing side of the molars that are fit for breaking bones and rending flesh. The front teeth of those that are vegetable eating belong to the knife cutting type, suitable for cutting grasses. The molars are like mortars and are fit for crushing vegetables. Man's teeth belong to the latter, and are not suitable for eating flesh.

Moreover, the intestines of those that are flesh eating are all particularly short to facilitate excretion. Man among animals has the longest intestines from small intestines to large intestine. According to the foregoing, it can be said that man's ability to be flesh eating is because of his knowledge of eating cooked food. Cooked food has already undergone a process of digestion, otherwise the uncooked flesh cannot basically be swallowed. Even if it is swallowed, there would not be the ability for digestion and excretion. Therefore, it may also be proven that man is born to be a natural vegetarian.

REASON BASED ON NUTRITION

The reason that animals want to drink and eat is that they need to take in nutrition. First of all, where does nutrition come from? Scientists have told us that it comes from the earth, sunshine, air and water. Particularly when the sun shines on the plants, the greatest amount of nutrition is produced owing to photosynthesis. The nutrition's substance in the land is directly absorbed by the plants. Vegetarians take in nutrition directly, whereas carnivores take in nutrition indirectly. People all know that beef is nutritious, but the nutrition of an ox is not derived from eating meat, but from eating

plants. People all know that young antlers have a great deal of hormones but deer eat grass only and not young antlers. From the above, it can be deduced that the nutrition for animals themselves all comes directly or indirectly from plants.

The Good Life

by Sheng Huey Yu
Roxbury Chronicle Staff

For him awaits a happy fate
Whose mind is free from greed;
Unstained by lust, untouched by hate.
His life is sweet indeed.

For him death has no bitter sting.
Goodwill and peace a blessing bring
Life's path is free from fear;
Wealth could not bring us here.

We long for what we cannot get.
And sigh for pleasures vain.
While seeds of good that bring content
In us stagnant remain.

We waste our lives in anxious care.
Sorrow and grumbling vain.
Which makes us blind to all that's fair
And good and free from pain.

If we but face the sunshine bright.
The shadows fall behind;
If we try to seek the light.
The darkness the mind.

This is not the life that's rich in wealth
Untold, and pompous show
That leads to content, peace and health.
Freedom from lust and woe.

The life that's rich in kingly deeds.
And thoughts and words to ease
The suffering world but surely leads
To Nirvana's blissful peace.

HIP HOP FASHIONS

Are Designer Names Taking Minority Communities to the Cleaners?

by Tanisha Washington
Roxbury Chronicle Staff

The emergence of Hip Hop sportswear as a distinct apparel category came into existence in 1990. When cross colors clothing hit the scene, it redefined hip hop style. The clothing one alone had fast growing sales where the owners began to produce more productivity. They made over \$160 million dollars in annual sales, until their business collapsed. Due to the owners, they believed their failure was the inexperience as businessmen and poor support from manufacturers. The manufacturers believed hip-hop influenced clothing as a passing fad but as new artists came into the industry as well as the old artists, they were wearing the gear that Tommy Hilfiger, Calvin Klein, Ralph Lauren has made so famous artists (Rap or R & B) that a young individual adores, he or she may feel like they want to head out the mall and buy these items because they're "hot" and that's the only thing they live for is the fashion and the idol.

But in turn, as years went by to the present, hip-hop fashion companies are vying for choice placement in the department stores from over-saturation. The industries are going after the same customers in the same stores. Before the millennium hits, there's going to be a definite shock to the market. The clothing labels who've built diverse lines and quality products will be the ones to survive, but the children that are buying will either be broke from spending their paychecks, borrowing money from parents or straight stealing to have the stylish fashion.

One artist by the name Tarif "Supreme" states, "It's like the music industry here. Everybody is trying to be a rapper or producer. But just like will only buy an album that they really like, you have to put clothing out there that people will want to wear." But what about the prices that they're charging individuals to wear their clothing? When it didn't cost them an arm and a leg to make it, there are many stores like Marshalls or T.J. Maxx that sell these name brands for a little of nothing, but some of the items are irregular and some are just hand me downs. But people choose to go to the big name store and purchase the clothing for top dollar.

My personal opinion is that it's sad that us black young individuals get caught by a label and in order to have it, we must pay top dollar. But if we were went to the suburban malls where the rich white shop, we only pay half of what we would pay in our own neighborhoods.

And why is that?

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